

Appl. No. 09/917,830
Amendment filed December 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 12, 2004

TSM-15

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 5-9 and 11-14 remain pending in this application. Claims 2, 4 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice of disclaimer. New claims 12-14 have been added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

A copy of the certified English translation of the priority document is enclosed.

In the Title

The title has been amended as required by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 5 has been amended to overcome the outstanding rejection under this section.

35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103

Claims 1-3 and 7-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Armstrong et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,691,146). Claims 4 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.

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§103(a) as being anticipated by Armstrong et al in view of Edwards et al (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0124201). Claims 6 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Armstrong et al further in view of Mori et al (U.S. Patent No. 2002/0013802). These rejections are traversed as follows.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 2 and 4 and claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of claim 10. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) has been rendered moot. In addition, a verified English translation of the certified priority document is being filed to antedate Edwards et al and Mori et al. The filing date the priority document is earlier than the effective filing date of either of these references.

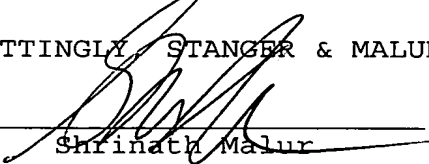
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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